

USSN 09/738,959

Page 2 of 10

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous claims with the following claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring operation of an ~~information~~ a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, said method comprising:

receiving, at a control unit, a directive to monitor a particular channel and a particular terminal, the particular channel being of a plurality of channels[[,]] transmitted from a ~~content provider~~ head-end of the provider equipment to said ~~the~~ subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, at a the particular terminal associated with being of said provider equipment, wherein the directive is received at the control unit through a communications means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system;

sending a command indicative of the particular channel ~~and to the~~ particular terminal to be monitored;

receiving ~~information representative of~~ content being transmitted on the particular channel ~~from at the particular terminal~~ through the distribution node of the television distribution system;

capturing the received content; and
reporting the captured content.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify delivery of contents from the information distribution system.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify operation of a user interface at the particular terminal.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as one or more video frames.

421563_1.DOC

USSN 09/738,959

Page 3 of 10

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as a video sequence.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the captured contents are reported as a bitmap.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the directive is received as part of a regular monitoring schedule.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the command is sent to a remote control unit.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular terminal is selected from among a plurality of terminals.
10. (currently amended) A monitoring system, operative to monitor operation of an information a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, the monitoring system comprising:
 - one or more terminals ~~associated with~~ of the said provider equipment, each terminal operative to receive commands and provide requested contents; and
 - a control unit configured to
 - receive a directive to monitor a particular channel of a plurality of channels at a selected one of the one or more terminals of the provider equipment, said plurality of channels providing content from at least one head-end of content provider associated with the information provider equipment distribution system to at least one subscriber terminal of the subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the directive is received at the control unit through a communication means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system.

421563_1.DOC

USSN 09/738,959

Page 4 of 10

send a command to the selected terminal,
receive contents ~~for~~ of the particular channel ~~from~~ at the selected terminal
through the distribution node of the television distribution system, and
capture and report the received content.

11. (original) The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:
a monitor and control unit operatively coupled to the control unit and configured to provide the directive to monitor the particular channel at the selected terminal.
12. (original) The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to test user interaction at the selected terminal.
13. (original) The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to verify proper delivery of contents on a plurality of channels to a plurality of terminals.
14. (original) The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the command directs the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.
15. (previously presented) The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:
a remote control unit configured to receive the command from the control unit and direct the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.
16. (original) The monitoring system of claim 10 and including a plurality of terminals of a plurality of terminal models.
17. (previously presented) The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the control unit includes

421563_1.DOC

USSN 09/738,959

Page 5 of 10

a media capture unit configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal.

18. (original) The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as one or more video frames.

19. (original) The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as a video sequence.

20. (currently amended) A monitoring system, operative to monitor delivery of contents in ~~an information~~ a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, the monitoring system comprising:

- a plurality of terminals ~~associated with~~ of the said provider equipment, each terminal operative to receive commands and provide requested contents;
- a monitor and control unit configured to provide a directive to monitor a particular channel of a plurality of channels at a selected terminal of the plurality of terminals of the provider equipment, said plurality of channels providing content to at least one subscriber terminal of the subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the directive is received at the monitor and control unit through a communication means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system; and
- a control system configured to
 - receive the directive from the monitor and control unit,
 - send a command to the selected terminal,
 - receive contents ~~for~~ of the particular channel ~~from~~ at the selected terminal through the distribution node of the television distribution system, and
 - capture and report the received content.